

House Bill 994

By: Representative Ashe of the 56<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

To amend Code Section 20-1A-10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensing, commission, and registration of early care and education programs, so as to provide for certification of excellence of early care and learning programs in specific areas of service; to provide for rules and regulations; to provide for notation of any certification on the program's license, registration, or commission; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

**SECTION 1.**

Code Section 20-1A-10 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to licensing, commission, and registration of early care and education programs, is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(d) The department shall publish and make available to early care and education programs and interested persons a list of guidelines for quality child care. The department shall promulgate rules and regulations to set out criteria for licensed, commissioned, or registered early care and education programs to be certified as providing excellent services exceeding standards for licensure, registration, or commissioning in specific areas of service. Such rules and regulations shall include without limitation criteria for certification in mental health services for children, teachers with excellent qualifications, excellent teacher-child ratio, and services for overweight or obese children. An early care and education program may earn one or more than one certification, but certification shall not be required for licensure, registration, or commissioning. The license, commission, or registration issued to an early care and education program shall include a notation of any certification earned by the program."

**SECTION 2.**

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- 1 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.